

Minutes of the Board Meeting
December 13, 2022
1:30 pm

Attendance

Commissioners Present

Manuel Lopez Ramirez, Chair
Daniel Molina, Vice-Chair
José Feliciano Jr., Secretary
Dr. Gregory Guzmán
Elizabeth Guzman Bowman
Rev. Juan Rivera
Mary Santiago
Tony Simms-Howell

Commissioners Absent

Maria S. Martinez—Excused
Michael G. Florez—Excused

Staff Present

Lilleana Cavanaugh, Executive Director
Annabel Meleán, Public Policy Officer
Mary Grace Sanchez, Community Liaison

Legislative Members Present

(none)

Legal Representation Present

AG Daniel Nunner

Public Present

Jessica Sutton
Armando Telles

Call to Order

Chair Lopez Ramirez calls the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Commissioner Simms-Howell leads the group in prayer. Commissioner Beth Guzmán-Bowman leads the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Call of the Roll

There are 8 Commissioners present, thus constituting quorum.

Chair's Report

Chair Lopez Ramirez presents the Chair's Report, beginning with a moment of silence for the passing of Dr. Odell Moreno Owens, who was recently honored as a DHO Awardee. Chair Lopez Ramirez tells a bit about Dr. Moreno Owens' life and accomplishments, and Dr. Moreno Owens' outreach in the Cincinnati region. Commissioner Simms-Howell also speaks about Dr. Moreno Owens, his family and his contributions to the community, specifically with his advocacy for the Latino Community in the Cincinnati Area.

Chair Lopez Ramirez reports on his recent activities, including a visit with the Mexican Consulate. The Mexican Consulate has a new Consul for the Indianapolis Consulate, which co-

Manuel Lopez Ramirez
Chair
Springfield

Dan Molina
Vice Chair
Loveland

Jose Feliciano Jr.
Secretary
Aurora

Michael Florez
Cincinnati

Gregory Guzmán, Ph.D.
Maumee

Beth Guzmán-Bowman
Columbus

Maria Sylvia Martinez
Hamler

Rev. Juan Rivera
Campbell

Yahaira Rose
Westerville

Mary Santiago
Lorain

V. Anthony Simms-Howell
Cincinnati

Al Cutrona
State Representative
District 58 - Mahoning County

Jessica Miranda
State Representative
District 28 - Hamilton County

Nathan Manning
State Senator
District 13 - Huron & Lorain
Counties



vers Mexican Nationals residing in Indiana, Michigan, and parts of Ohio. The Mexican Consulate in Indiana has been increasing outreach and programming for a variety of Spanish Speakers (not just Mexican Nationals). Chair Lopez Ramirez mentions that the Mexican Consulate has held a few Mobile Consulate events and that these events have been helpful for the community to help with documents and passports. The Consulate has also been hosting Latino Roundtables to help the community with the challenges they face. Lastly, Chair Lopez Ramirez congratulates and extends his welcome to the new Commissioner, Yahaira Rose.

Motion #12-01-2022

Chair Lopez Ramirez asks for the approval of the October 2022 Board Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Dan Molina motions to approve the October 2022 Board Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Mary Santiago seconds the motion. Vote 8-0. Motion carries.

Agency Report

Executive Director Lilleana Cavanaugh presents the Agency Report. Director Cavanaugh tells about a recent initiative to present an online curriculum, conducted in English and Spanish to help support and improve skillsets for Latinos with their parenting skills. This training will include learning how to handle circumstances that parents are dealing with on a regular basis.

Director Cavanaugh also highlights that Community Liaison, Mary Grace Sanchez, and Public Policy Officer, Annabel Meleán, recently presented at a local TESOL (Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages) Conference. This presentation and relationship with TESOL is helping to support the children with language needs, as well as the parents and the teachers.

Director Cavanaugh states that December is when OCHLA wraps up a lot of its projects and the team starts reflecting and reporting on the previous year. With this, the team is looking forward and beginning to plan for projects in the upcoming year, such as for the Legislative Visit Day, the Latino Affairs Summit, and the continued build-up of the Latino Mental Health Navigator program.

Public Policy Officer Annabel Meleán presents information on some of the 117 bills that she has been tracking as potentially significant for the awareness of the Commission. PPO Meleán has been and will continue to send out the information regarding these various bills via the Public Policy Newsletter. One of the biggest areas of interest includes a range of bills and proposals connected with Education and the Department of Education. Bills of particular interest in this area include HB 99, HB2, SB 105, SB 126, and SB 80. PPO Meleán updates the group about the Ohio Redistricting Case, which is currently being looked at by the National Supreme Court, but they have not yet made a decision on the case. PPO Meleán also gives an update on some of the bills that were enacted over the last year. These include: House Bill (HB)168 is the State Fiscal Recovery Fund, which designates \$250 million to be distributed through the Federal American Rescue Plan Act. Senate Bill (SB)108 designates funds for bars, restaurants and the lodging industry. SB 109 provides funds for businesses, childcare, and Veterans' Homes. HB 167 provides emergency rental assistance funds. HB 120 permits expanded compassionate care for long-term caregiving facilities. HB 122 expands and regulates telehealth services. SB 2 allows Ohio to join the "PsyPact", which is essentially an inter-state system of shared mental health services, particularly enabling telehealth mental health capabilities.



Commissioner Simms-Howell asks how this information is being shared with the Community, and in particular with the Latino Community. He also emphasizes the need for the community to be aware of the potential funds that may help their businesses and adds that Latino Businesses are in particular need for more education and information regarding taxation in order to be in and remain in compliance with the Ohio Taxation regulations. He adds that Latino businesses are especially susceptible to being taken advantage of regarding such collections demands, whether legitimate or fraudulent, due to the need for more education in this realm. Commissioner Simms-Howell suggests getting the Department of Taxation to meet with OCHLA to help facilitate the dissemination of this information to Latino businesses.

Public Policy Officer Annabel Meleán emphasizes that information is being distributed via bi-weekly Public Policy Newsletters and is being discussed regularly during the OCHLA Committee Meetings, specifically in the Civic Engagement Committee.

PPO Meleán updates the Commission regarding the recent voter turn-out during the mid-term elections. She shares that there have been inquiries from Commissioners about the number of Hispanic Ohio Voters eligible to vote and the turn-out of these voters. PPO Meleán states that she has not been able to find this information with the Secretary of State's Office yet, but that she will be trying to track down this information. Overall, out of all Ohioans who were eligible to vote, 51% voted in the mid-term elections. While some of the Ohio-specific data was not available regarding Latinos, there was information regarding the Latino voters nation-wide for those who voted in the mid-term elections. Nationally, 30% of Latino voters were between the ages of 18 to 29, which was 10 years younger than the national average, which indicates that the Latino Youth are going to the polls at higher rates than other groups. With this social media outreach has been noticed and helpful in encouraging voter registration. According to a poll conducted just before the mid-term election by the Pew Research Center, Latino Voters were concerned about the top five issues, respectively: 1. Economy (80%) 2. Healthcare (71%) 3. Education (70%) 4. Violent Crime 5. Gun Policy (66%) .

Commissioner Simms-Howell expresses concern regarding a recently proposed and passed piece of legislation requiring the need to present a State ID to vote, rather than allowing voters to present a variety of methods to prove their identity, in addition to recently proposed and passed concerns about more restrictive timelines for early voting and absentee voting. He suggests that the Commission notify and educate the various Latino organizations about such changes to regulation in order to help inform the Latino Community. Chair Lopez-Ramirez indicates that this particular bill was a topic of interest and was a discussion point within the Civic Engagement Meeting, including Commissioner Feliciano and PPO Meleán.

Executive Director Lilleana Cavanaugh presents specifics from the Latino Mental Health Navigators Project's Second Quarter Report. She reminds the Commission of the seven project sites and that these sites have all been receiving additional training and support through the Navigator Program's progression. During the First Quarter, 170 service providers were identified and during Second Quarter an additional 80 services providers were identified, bringing the new total to 250 total service providers available to meet the needs for mental health. The various sites continue to build relationships by reaching out to local mental health boards, hospitals, domestic violence shelters, private practices, 411 hotlines, and school systems. With this, these providers and programs sites are helping Latinos address their mental health needs by helping the clients articulate, and really name these experiences and feelings, so that they can then address these needs. The sites are making more referrals and they are being creative in their work and their methods of



outreach. Some of these methods of outreach have included streaming on Facebook 'live', using group meetings, arts and crafts, etc. During the Second Quarter alone the Navigators Program has served 5,000 unique people. Of those 5,000 individuals, 103 have been connected and referred to mental health service providers. Currently, it is generally difficult to access mental health professionals for anyone in the State of Ohio, so the fact that over 100 people have been connected, shows that the Navigators Program is making connections, despite the difficulties to find available mental health care. From the data from the Second Quarter, 1300 individuals out of the 5,000, are completely new to the Navigators Program. As well, the word is getting out about the program and it has been featured with stories from the media about Proyecto RAICES (Akron Area Navigators Site) and Ramona Reyes (Our Lady of Guadalupe, Columbus Area Navigators Site).

Director Cavanaugh explains that the Navigators Program has monthly reviews, regular meetings with not only the grantees, but also with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. Most of the projects are on target with their spending, and only two (El Puente and El Pueblo) are a little behind in their spending, which is largely due to staffing needs. They need to hire new staff, allocate more space, but we are expecting that all of the project sites will be able to utilize all of their funds until the end of the grant. The grant ends in March of 2023, but Director Cavanaugh and the Navigators team have requested additional funding to carry the Navigators Program until the end of the Fiscal Year (June 30, 2023). Due to the success of the program so far, the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) has agreed to extend the funding with an additional \$150,000, to finish the fiscal year with a total of \$850,000. There are already discussions with the DMHAS for extending the program and its funding into the next biennium (2024-2025).

Motion #12-02-2022

Commissioner Juan Rivera motions to approve the October and November 2022 Monthly Agency Reports as given. Commissioner José Feliciano, Jr. seconds the motion. Vote 8-0. Motion carries.

Fiscal Report

Executive Director Lilleana Cavanaugh presents the Fiscal Report as of November 30th, 2022. So far the expenses are on target and the payroll was actually 21% underspent due to some vacancies in the office and the need to fill these vacancies. For the second quarter the payroll is now on target, but we may still be a little bit underspent for December. We are in great need of staff for the office and we might be able to request permission from the budgeting office to hire an intermittent individual. Expenses are on target and the operating expenses continue to be low. This may change quite a bit though as the staff begins to do more traveling over the upcoming months.

Regarding the Latino Mental Health Navigator Grant Funds, these expenses are on track and they are reported to the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

The Rainy Fund remains the same with the appropriation of \$24,000.

Commissioner Simms-Howell asks to see if there would be room in the budget in order to take the Board Meeting "Outside" to the public. He suggests that the meetings used to be held in other locations, such as Dayton, Cleveland, etc. and that it is cost prohibitive for the public to solely attend in the current location in



Columbus, specifically citing the price of parking. Chair Lopez-Ramirez suggests that this idea is worth investigating.

Motion #12-03-2022

Commissioner Gregory Guzman motions to accept the November 30th, 2022 Fiscal Report as given. Commissioner Beth Guzmán-Bowman seconds the motion. Vote 8-0. Motion carries.

Biennial Budget

Executive Director Lilleana Cavanaugh presents an update regarding the Biennial Budget (FY 2024-2025). The Biennial Budget Packet was sent with the October Monthly Report. The number one priority is maintaining the present support systems for the community at the optimal level. The number 2 goal is increasing capacity by building opportunities for Latinos. The third goal is to advise the Governor and Legislature with public issues affecting Latinos and with this, increasing the relationships the Commission has within the State Government.

On previous fiscal years, the Commission needed to rely on previous budget baselines, but for this budget, the commission has been asked to plan according to how much the Commission needs to cover basic costs. Most of the increase in spending needs is due to personnel. Those are always the highest costs. The general fund will be just shy of \$500,000 and the Rainy Fund will be about \$124,000. The hope is to increase funds obtained through grants and the Commission will be receiving at least \$100,000 from grants. If the relationships with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and other Departments can continue, hopefully additional resources can be obtained to continue to invest on strategic priorities. The funding for the Latino Mental Health Navigator grant and other smaller grants have definitely increased the Commission's funding levels, which is helpful when requesting further funding to help cover the operational costs. The upcoming budget is going to mirror the current budget, with small increases for programming. The hope is to get resources and grants rather than relying on the general fund.

Commissioner Molina asks if the budget seems realistic when accounting for how things have shifted as the world emerges from the pandemic compared with the way business has been conducted during the pandemic. Executive Director Cavanaugh suggests that the budget is realistic because the issue is not a lack of funds because the areas where there has been the most wiggle-room for the budget has been within the areas designated for programming and collaboratives. With this, about \$50,000 to 70,000 can go directly to outreach.

Commissioner Simms-Howell suggests that only meeting at the Riffe Building, in Columbus may be prohibitive for some of the community to feel like the Board Meetings are accessible to them. He asks if there is room in the budget to explore holding the OCHLA Board Meeting in other locations, such as Cleveland, Cincinnati, etc. Chair Lopez Ramirez indicates that this topic can be explored further and that the level of interest and the feasibility from the Commissioners should also be polled.

Commissioner Gregory Guzman asks if the funds received from the [Navigators] Grant pose any risk to what OCHLA might receive in the future budget. Executive Director Cavanaugh states that this funds are not at risk due to receiving the Navigator Grant monies. Instead, grants like the Navigator Grant actually serve as a model for future grants and demonstrate the commission's management ability, by showing that we can responsibly manage significant grants, we can demonstrate the potential for responsible management for



other potential grants. As well, many of these grants can also help cover some small amounts for administrative costs due to the added work of the grants.

Chair Lopez Ramirez asks about the potential for hiring part-time help for the website and for managing social media, particularly because OCHLA has been understaffed most recently, with waiting for staff from the AmeriVista program. He suggests that he is open to ideas to help bridge this staffing gap and asks fellow Commissioners for their suggestions.

Commissioner Beth Guzman-Bowman asks if there is a gap in the office that is going unfilled or if there is a particular need or missing piece. Executive Director Cavanaugh indicates that there is a need for help with managing the website and that Community Liaison, Mary Grace Sanchez, has been helping out on this front and has been trying to cover this need as much as possible, as well as helping with the interns. Director Cavanaugh indicates that there is the potential for an intermittent contractor position to help fill some staffing needs and that this is something that can be explored. Special permission needs to be requested with the HR office to see what would be required to activate that opening, because there are some funds available.

Vice Chair Dan Molina asks if with this potential model for filling the staffing gap, if there is enough continuity to bring the potential employee up to speed in order to be able to fill the role. He adds that such a position requires a lot of prior knowledge about the Commission as well as how to appropriately be effective. He asks if this model can be successful knowing the needs for the position. Commissioner Mary Santiago adds that this position's job description would need to include such information and requirements to be filled adequately. Commissioner Greg Guzman asks if there would be an option to explore a type of 'extra pay for extra work' since other staff members, like Mary Grace, have been helping cover this need. He explains that in the corporate world such pay is called 'tap pay', but he states that he is not sure if this is an option with the State of Ohio's Human Resources structures.

Old Business

Chair Lopez Ramirez reminds the Commissioners of the 2022 Ethics Training Requirement and deadline, which is set for the end of December 2022.

New Business

Executive Director Lilleana Cavanaugh states that the OCHLA staff has been in discussions with Kent State University regarding the potential partnership between Kent State and OCHLA for the upcoming Latino Affairs Summit, which would be held as a hybrid event. Kent State previously hosted the last in-person Latino Education Summit in 2019 and they have offered their technical resources and facilities to host a hybrid event for the 2023 Latino Affairs Summit.

Motion #12-04-2022

Commissioner Juan Rivera motions to approve Kent State University as a partner for the Latino Affairs Summit which will take place September 15, 2023. Second by Commissioner José Feliciano, Jr.. Vote 8-0. Motion carries.

Committee Updates:



Riffe Center - 18th Floor
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215-6108

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<http://ochla.ohio.gov>

The various committees share their updates.

DHO Committee:

Commissioner Mary Santiago and Mary Grace Sanchez share the details regarding the DHO award presentations. There are commissioners who will be delivering the final awards to the remaining awardees, which should be completed by the second week of January. As well, the DHO committee has been working with Public Policy Officer Annabel Meleán to put together a recognition for the DHO awardees during the Legislative Visit Day luncheon. The details are still being finalized, but there will be a 15-20 minute presentation including a PowerPoint and a group recognition during the luncheon. The awardees will also meet the legislators and be recognized.

Health Committee:

Commissioner Beth Guzmán-Bowman states that the Health Committee was presented information about the Latino Mental Health Navigators Program by Executive Director Lilleana Cavanaugh and the Committee discussed the Navigators Program. Another topic of interest is a potential campaign focused around women's cardiovascular health which would partner Dr. Quesada, a physician from the Cincinnati Area, with the Commission. As well, the Committee is in the process of putting together a Health Advisory Committee for the Latino Affairs Summit and the Health Committee is specifically seeking out other Commissioners to assist on this Advisory Committee.

Education Committee:

Public Policy Officer Annabel Meleán says that the new head of the Education Committee will be Commissioner Maria Sylvia Martinez. The Committee discussed putting together a Latino Affairs Summit Advisory Group and that they are hoping to create five tracks for the Latino Summit. These tracks may include such topics as Education, Business, Health, and there may be a 'Student' track as well. The new OCHLA Commissioner, Yahaira Rose, is expected to join this Committee at the upcoming Committee Meeting in February.

Workforce and Economic Development Committee:

Vice Chair Dan Molina states that the Committee discussed their strategy and the renewed priorities since there have been recent changes in leadership within the Ohio Legislature and this means a shift in the new Legislature's priorities as well. The Workforce Committee also discussed a recent Hispanic Chambers of Commerce meeting and the low attendance at the meeting, with the goal of increase the attendance at these future meetings. As a whole the Workforce Committee is looking to help various collaboratives re-engage their efforts since the new leaderships at the local, state and federal levels have been established.

Civic Engagement Committee:

Public Policy Officer Annabel Meleán shares that the Civic Engagement Committee discussed Legislative Visit Day. Esperanza Inc. and Ohio TESOL (Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages) will be partnering with OCHLA to offer workshops on Legislative Visit Day to help education constituents in preparation for meeting with their legislators. In November, PPO Meleán and Community Liaison Mary Grace Sanchez presented at the Ohio TESOL Conference. This collaboration has included helping teachers connect with their State Legislators in order to voice specific concerns regarding Education and how to best work implement



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policies that work for all, specifically for English Language learners. In February, OCHLA and Ohio TESOL will be hosting an Advocacy Workshop so that OCHLA can work the TESOL to help get information to these educators about how to best connect with their State Legislators. PPO Meleán indicates that Chair Lopez Ramirez requested that this workshop information be shared with the Commissioners to allow for their participation. PPO Meleán adds that she will be meeting with Commissioners individually to gauge each Commissioner's priorities and concerns moving into the new Legislature.

Motion #12-05-2022

Commissioner Beth Guzmán-Bowman motions to move to Public Commentary. Commissioner Santiago seconds the motion. Vote 8-0. Motion carries.

Public Commentary:

Chair Lopez Ramirez recognizes the guest, Armando Telles, who also participated in the Workforce and Economic Development and Civic Engagement Committees. Armando Telles introduces himself as an advocate for Latinos, Veterans, and simply as an individual interested in being engaged and involved in his community. He says he recently relocated to Ohio from California and is a Marine Corp Veteran and oldest of nine siblings. His recent efforts have focused on identifying groups in need of access to healthcare and fresh food. Mr. Telles indicates that he is hoping to help connect the coalition of food banks and OCHLA to help align efforts and resources, and ultimately help local residents meet their year-round needs. He looks forward to contributing to OCHLA's efforts and potential collaboration in the future. Chair Lopez Ramirez thanks Mr. Telles for his passion and efforts. Chair Lopez Ramirez also recognizes and thanks Commissioners Beth Guzman-Bowman, Vice Chair Dan Molina, and Secretary Feliciano, and Commissioner Florez specifically for their leadership within the OCHLA Board and he recognizes the efforts of the rest of Commissioners as they participate in various efforts throughout the State of Ohio.

Motion #12-06-2022

Commissioner Juan Rivera motions to adjourn the Board Meeting. Commissioner Dan Molina seconds the motion. Vote 8-0. Motion carries.

Chair Lopez Ramirez adjourns the Board Meeting at 2:49 pm.

Signature and Date

Manuel Lopez Ramirez, Chair

Signature and Date

José Feliciano Jr., Secretary

December 13, 2022
Motions Carried



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De-	Motion # 12.01.2022	To approve the October 2022 Board Meeting Minutes.
	Motion # 12.02.2022	To accept the October and November 2022 Agency Reports as given.
	Motion # 12.03.2022	To accept the Fiscal Report as of November 30th, 2022 as given.
	Motion # 12.04.2022	To approve Kent State University as a partner for the Latino Affairs Summit which will take place September 15, 2023.
	Motion # 12.05.2022	To move to Public Commentary.
	Motion # 12.06.2022	To adjourn the Board Meeting.

cember 13, 2022
Attachments

DOCUMENT	AUTHOR
October 2022 Agency Report	Executive Director Cavanaugh
November 2022 Agency Report	Executive Director Cavanaugh
Fiscal Report ending November 30, 2022	Executive Director Cavanaugh
December Board Meeting Agenda	Executive Director Cavanaugh
October 2022 Board Meeting Minutes	Executive Director Cavanaugh

